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# Speeches of Hon. LEONARD MYERS, ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT

## "Actions Speak Louder Than Words."

NOT PUBLISHED OR FRANKED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

*From the "Morning Post,"*

### WHO ARE THE RULERS?

There is one great principle underlying our republican institutions that cannot be too often or too forcibly impressed upon the popular mind. This is that the people are the rulers, and not the ruled. The object of government is not to afford good offices and fat salaries to a set of dictators, nor to provide ample forums for verbose declaimers, but to secure to the people such civil order as shall best advance their interests. Those who are elected are the servants, the people are the sovereigns. We are too apt to forget this distinction, and, instead of rigidly criticising the acts of those we have sent to do our bidding, and demanding right where wrong has been done, we bow in meek submission.

*From Saturday Morning, Dec. 21, 1859.*

### FIRST-CLASS FACILITIES FOR PLUN- DERING THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER of the recommendations contained in the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury is one urging the enactment of a law prohibiting clerks, and other persons who have had office in the Treasury Department, from accepting employment as agents or attorneys for parties having claims against the Government, which claims were pending when such persons were in office. At the first glance this may seem like an dangerous proposition, but a little reflection will serve to satisfy the reader that there is a decided necessity for legislation of this character. Mr. Boutwell says "there is reason to believe that information gained while in the public service has been used in aid of the claimants." Of this there is no doubt, and the case might have been stated much more strongly; for we are assured that a large number of claims were held back by persons in office under the late Administration for no other purpose than to get possession of them as attorney or claim agent after the official head of the clerk or officer had been decapitated. The truth is, that the Government is extensively swindled by these ex-officials, who, having learned whilst in position all the intricacies of the Departments, are enabled to get through many claims that

never ought to be paid. But the evils is by no means confined to this class of men. Many of the members of Congress (more than half the whole number, we presume) are lawyers, and they avail themselves of their license as such, not only to practise against the Government in the Departments, as well as in the Courts, but to use their *clerk's* position for the purpose of robbing the Treasury.

Not long since a case was tried in the United States District Court for this city, in which a person named Taylor was defendant, having Mr. Leonard Myers, member of Congress from the Third District, for couns. l. The verdict of the jury was in favor of the Government, and the damages were assessed at seven thousand dollars. Immediately after the rendition of the verdict, Mr. Myers proceeded to Washington, and by reason of his position as a member of Congress he was able to obtain an order from the Internal Revenue Bureau directing that the case should be settled on the payment of one thousand dollars; but the payment of Congressman Myers coming immediately to the knowledge of Detective Hoffman, who originated the prosecution, that gentleman forwarded to Washington a statement of the case, with a protest against its settlement, according to Myers' dictation, after which the order to compromise was countermanded. If we were to select a time with which to illustrate the wrong attempted to be done in this case, we should write it out *in toto*. Here is a member of Congress paid five thousand dollars a year to faithfully represent the people of his district, and to protect their interest. He does not content himself with this handsome sum, but hires himself to the Government's enemy, who is engaged in demanding the Treasury of the United States, and takes a fee in consideration of the assistance he is rendering to the culprit, using the power conferred on him by his constituents to coerce the head of the Revenue Department into a concession to his wicked demand. This is not an isolated case, for many other members of Congress do the same thing; and this same member from the Third Pennsylvania District, who is known as a patent-lawyer, is at all times engaged in the prosecution of cases for his clients before the Committee on Patents of

the House of Representatives, and on its floor. If a man were guilty of this sort of conduct in the earlier and better days of the Republic, he would have been hurled from his place, and honest or high-toned men would have shunned him; but, alas! there are now too many who esteem such doings as we have mentioned as a legitimate means of gaining money. But how is this evil to be corrected? Congress alone can cure it; and unfortunately there are too many men, in either House, whose morality is as loose as that of this Philadelphia member; and it is hence that the people must provide the remedy, and this can only be done by setting their seal of condemnation on such men at the very first opportunity. Let it be remembered "that he who would be free must himself strike the blow;" and if the people will act on this old but admirable suggestion, they will soon get rid of the Congressional vascals, no matter to what party they may belong.

*From the "Sunday Republic."*

Our key-note, sounded some few weeks back, requesting that a new deal might be made for Congress, seems to have created a rattling among the dry bones, but a number of "good citizens" have awakened to the fact that has long been evident, that the business interests of the city should be represented by business men, and not have the entire representation composed of lawyers, who, the large majority of them, are attempting to their private practice, in the way of patent and whisky cases. A man who cannot afford to represent us in the halls of the nation by going his constituents the benefit of his entire time for the salary he receives, had better clear the track, and thus make room for some one who can. We "throw up our hat" for the coming man. Let him put in his appearance. First, Second, Third, and Fourth districts, &c., &c., let us hear from you; don't be afraid to speak out—remember, you have "backing" that will "stick."

*"Evening Herald," Feb. 16, 1870.*

### THE RASCALITY OF LEONARD MYERS.

The House Military Committee are still at work investigating the sale of cadetships at the Military Academies, in connection therewith, we have a story to tell both for the benefit of our readers and the chairman of the committee engaged in the cadetship investigation. There is a naval cadet by the name of Isaac B. Elliott, who has recently been appointed and accredited to the State of South Carolina, and of course the presumption is that the Cadet Elliott comes from some one of the old families of the Palmetto State. But such is not the case. This future defender of the starry flag is the hopeful heir of Internal Revenue Assessor Elliott, of the famous Third district of this State, and a resident of this city. The Assessor having reached a comfortable position under Uncle Sam, where the pay is very fair and the opportunities good, had a natural desire to place his son

in a position where he would be in the m. of promotion for the shoes of brave Admiral Farragut.

Possessing this laudable ambition, the Assessor set about finding some one who had a place to dispose of, and was not long in finding his man. A Congressman was soon found who had a naval cadetship for sale at the very moderate price of \$2,000. A bargain was quickly struck, and young Elliott was at once transferred from a clerkship in his father's office to the Naval Academy of the United States, and his name entered upon the rolls as being appointed from the state of South Carolina. The Congressman who sold the appointment and bagged the two thousand dollars of Elliott of Philadelphia—not Elliott of South Carolina—is said to be no less a personag than the man who defrauded Dr. John Moffit of his seat. No less a man, in fact, than the very honorable, honest, immaculate Leonard Myers.

We request General Sloane and the committee to make a note of this matter. Let them send for the Elliotts, and warn the ears of the Lord's pretended anointed, the honorable humbug of the Third Pennsylvania district. How are you, two thousand?

*From the "Sunday Morning, SOME OF CONGRESSMAN MYERS' PETS."*

MR. EDITOR:—Please permit me to give you a few items to add to your article of December 24th, 1869, entitled "First-class Facilities for Plundering the Government."

One James Stewart, who was a Government storekeeper at one of the distilleries of the notorious Mountjoy, and the guager, and another storekeeper, were charged with the removal of whiskey, about August 7th, 1869, and were held in \$2500 bail, and are still so held to appear at Court and answer the charge, and were of course suspended from position in the Revenue-department.

A short time after this there were discharged from the Philadelphia Navy Yard, in obedience to order for a reduction of the force, hundreds of honorable and honest Republican shipwrights and other workmen; and a few days thereafter, this same James Stewart was, through the efforts of his Congressman and counsel, Leonard Myers, put in the Navy Yard as a shipwright, where he still remains; thus causing the Government to seem to put a "*premium on dishonesty*" by rewarding a man who had been detected in robbing the Treasury.

This Stewart is a precinct manipulator, and is expected to carry his precinct for the Congressman's renomination by inside manipulations.

last delegate election this same man, at such a *sovereign* inside officer, filled up and signed, and insisted on, and tried to induce his fellow officers to sign, an election certificate for the defeated delegate, though defeated by a large majority; and he refused to vote the most popular part of the Republican ticket at the next general election.

The honorable (C. Congressman) before securing for him (Stewart) the storekeepership, endeavored to have him appointed foreman of caulkers in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, tailing in which he tried to compel the foreman of caulkers to rate him as first quarterman, in which he also failed.

Some time afterward I the honorable *et al* Congressman went to the Philadelphia Navy Yard to provide a place for a brother of this same Stewart, who was also an inside officer in another precinct, wherein equally dishonest practices were indulged at the same delegate election. On that occasion, when asked how it was likely to fare with the first-mentioned Stewart, the honorable *et al* Congressman replied: "Oh, that is all hush'd up." This arousing the curiosity of your correspondent, he happened in the United States Court one morning to see "the style in which 'tis done". He found quite an excitement caused by the approaching trial of the "notorious" *Manitou*, held to bail at the same time with Stewart & Co. There was a heavy representation of the Internal Revenue Department, and from the antecedents of some I was not surprised to hear them use language altogether in sympathy with the prisoner and against the prosecuting government officials, who I therefore judged, could not be bribed or influenced from their duty. One revenue official (appointed by the same honorable *et al* Congressman's *et al*) with exciting gestures, in his own favorite and classical language, informed his hearers that "them ——— suckers" (mentioning down the long, entry in the direction of the District Attorney's, Marshall's and Supervisor's offices) "were no politicians". What in hell do they know about politics?"

The Supervisor of Justice seemed to come in for an *unusual* share of their mal-treatment. He seemed a doubly-damned double-breasted — "sucker," "but never mind, there was some body after him that would teach him, damn him," and so on *ad libitum*. They evidently, like Jeff. Davis, want to be left alone. The hour having arrived, your correspondent moved into Court. The prisoner exhausted his challenges on as noble and honorable looking men as you would find anywhere, and the District Attorney showed equal sagacity against the "triumvirates," not in favor of the "government." The prisoner was convicted, a new trial after argument refused, and he is now in jail, which shows that "*Honesty is a last resort* in politics," the revenue officials and their "sucker" theories to the contrary, notwithstanding.

One remarkable fact in the testimony of the Collector of this district was, that he seized this land, although the property of the said

called *King* of the whisky ring) one afternoon, and went into the country with his family the next morning and stayed there some ten days or more. *Remarkable*, because this seizure was an *event* in his life—the *first event* of the kind—an *event of magnitude*, not a skirmish, but a sort of Vicksburg. Queer time to go to the country. Queer time to stay ten days or more. The stock-keeper also went into the country about the same time, just when the Government needed them all in the city. Queer officials. Queer Congressman, to be the means of appointing so many queer officials. Your correspondent has the best reasons for stating that this model *law-maker* has interposed his official influence between justice and these *law-breakers* at every opportunity. Yours,

### CHAPTER 1

• The Press, Oct. 30th, 1869.

## GEORGE MOUNTJOY'S DISTILLERY.

It would be remembered that the distillery of George Munro & Co. was seized, and while under the custody of the United States marshal the whisky contained therein was sent to New York.

Montgomery was to have a hearing on Saturday before United States Commissioner Chang Bodde, but he avoided himself of the hearing, having stayed at home and entered back in 8500000 stamp after 11.

For evidence of the powers of Benjamin F. Rewler, James S. Brown, and Theodoor Fitter was pronounced with the usual assent of the court.

"Sunday Rep." Apr.

him there until the collector and Mr. Fisher came; and it was during the time spoken of Mr. Fisher told me he had guzzled the whisky, and had Stewart with him; I knew Stewart could not have been there, as I had been at the collector's office; Mr. Fisher was the overseer day scorekeeper; I never saw him at the distillery in my several visits; I asked for him and I was told that he was not about, and I did not see him there; the forty-five barrels were not there when I paid a visit to the place a short time after; a letter in the stamp-room or in the bonded warehouse; that was eight or ten days after the seizure; that was the 6th. I knew personally of the removal of the whisky; don't know whether the barrels had the serial number of the tax and stamp on them; there were no tax-paid stamps affixed; Mr. Fisher was suspended on my report, read that Mr. Fisher was at Astor's, City for the benefit of his health; but it was not true; the theory that there is a whisky-well in the exterior room when the seizure was made; the defendants were not in the building before the seizure, we needed.

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From "Evening Bulletin," Dec. 28th, 1859.

The public sentiment of Philadelphia is overwhelmingly on the side of a severe infliction of the penalties of the law upon the perpetrators of revenue frauds. The community will look to its Senators and Representatives to see that the President is not deceived into yielding for the whisky convicts. If Mountjoy or any one of the lesser lights of the Whisky Ring is pardoned, it can only be by the practice of some deception upon the President, for which he is almost certain will be fairly held responsible. It is hard enough to secure convictions in these cases, and when the law succeeds in vindicating its officers, it must not be disconcerted by the interpretation of misdirected elemency.

### THE CADETSHIP FRAUD.

#### FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED.

The report of the Military Committee on the cadetship fraud promises to be very full in regard to all persons implicated except members of the House. It will contain a recommendation that Gen. Schoepf, who paid Mr. Butler for the appointment of Gen. Tyler's son, be required to resign his position as an Examiner in the Patent Office. With a greater sense of propriety than he was credited with, Gen. Schoepf has already resigned and retired from the public service. This report will insist on the trial by a Naval Court of Commander T. J. Shur for his alleged complicity in the frauds. The examination of Assessor Elliott of Philadelphia is prolonged. And, finally, the report will recommend the dismissal of all cadets at West Point and Annapolis who were appointed from districts, in which they did not reside. All this is very well as far as it goes; but the whole investigation has come to a "most tame and impotent conclusion." Congressmen would better consider their own hankering members before hunting their tools out of the Patent Office, or wreaking revenge upon the lads at West Point. — *N. Y. Tribune.*

The necessity of having Philadelphia represented by Congressmen of ability was never more forcibly illustrated than during the debate on the League Island bill. Oh! that we had Congressmen equal to the emergency when a measure so important to thousands of our industrious Republican citizens comes up for consideration.

*City Item, Feb. 19th, 1870.*

We have received the speech of Hon. Leonard Myers upon the League Island bill, and have sent it to Col. Fitzgerald to read. *Moral of Post.*

We have read all the League Island speeches at least one dozen times. They were poor originally, and repeated perusal has made them stale, flat, and unprofitable. If our members would work more and speak less, they would do better. The loss of League Island should banish our entire delegation from public life. They have disgraced themselves and their constituency.

THE LEAGUE ISLAND FIASCO. The *Commercial List* says: "The merchants and other citizens of Philadelphia will never learn wisdom, for they allow themselves to be represented in Congress year after year by men utterly incompetent to protect our interests. When shall we have a change?"

Dawes says he can whip the whole Pennsylvania Delegation with one hand tied behind him! Kelly, Myers, and O'Neill, where are you? Let off those same old speeches at him. They ought to kill him—they killed League Island!

THE CATS OF DEFEAT. When League Island was before the House some of our Congressmen began to make speeches instead of votes. With empty pomposity and laughable verbiage, for Bumcombe, they recited their stale platitudes about the Island and an iron-clad navy, taking good care that their oft-repeated speeches should be very fully reported in *The Press*. The result was defeat—humiliating defeat—and the loss of an expenditure of at least thirty millions among our artisans. For this shameful mismanagement they should be repudiated and disgraced. *City Item, Feb. 19, 1870.*

ANOTHER REMARKABLE FACT. — Hon. Leonard Myers voted against the resolution to expel Butler of Tennessee, for selling a cadetship. "A fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind."



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